



**Subject:** B:Music (formerly Performances Birmingham Ltd) - Company Pen Portrait

**Report of:** Alison Jarrett, AD Commercial and Development, Finance & Governance

**Relevant Cabinet Member:** Councillor Brigid Jones

**Relevant O &S Chair(s):** Councillor Sir Albert Bore

**Report author:** Alison Jarrett

Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference:		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :		

## 1 Executive Summary

B:Music Ltd (formerly Performances Birmingham Limited) is to present to Members on the private agenda. This report provides Members with a pen portrait of the company and its current major capital development.

## 2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the information provided

### 3 Background

3.1 B:Music is a company limited by guarantee from Birmingham City Council as sole guarantor. The organisation's objectives are:

- To promote and present concert performances of classical, popular, and contemporary music, complementary to those of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO), and of world-class calibre; and
- To educate the public by promoting, fostering, and encouraging the knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the arts, particularly music, providing an education programme for this purpose.

3.2 The company receives a revenue support grant from the council as shown in the table below:

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
BCC Core Grant	£1.388m	£1.388m	£1.388m

During 2020 B:Music had 293 employees on full, part-time and variable contracts. At 31 March 2020 (audited) the charity held net assets of £10.525m.

3.3 B:Music manages and operates Symphony Hall which is one of the finest concert halls in the world. Presenting a world-class programme of music and education, it is a major cultural draw for Birmingham and is the home of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO). Over 350,000 audiences enjoyed performances at SH in 2015, across a programme of classic, jazz, folk, rock, pop, comedy and community events, high levels of audience continue to date.

3.4 B:Music has during 2020/21 completed its major capital construction project, "Making an Entrance". This construction project extended and re-modelled Symphony Hall's public spaces to create a building that is economically sustainable, vibrant, and connected to the public realm.

Key physical components of the development are:

- An extended glass frontage into Centenary Square
- 750m<sup>2</sup> additional space
- A dedicated front door, separate to the ICC entrance
- New bars and hospitality
- 588m<sup>2</sup> of underused space brought into commercial and learning use
- New learning, education and meeting spaces
- New corporate hospitality suites
- A relocated box office
- Enhanced FOH (front of house) performance space

This development has been funded through a combination of fund-raising and grant awards and on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 Cabinet approved a commercial loan facility of up to £3m to assist with the completion of the project should this fund raising not reach the required level.

### **3.5 Key personnel and board members within B:Music are:**

Mr Nick Reed – CEO

Mr Nick Loveland – COO

Ms Janine Bradley – Finance Director  
and Marketing

Mr Richard Loftus – Director of Sales

#### **Board Members**

Ms Anita Bhalla OBE DL (Chair)

Mr Paul Faulkner

Mr Dav Bansal

Ms Helen Bates

Mr Joel Blake OBE

Ms Claire Evans

Mr Vidar Hjordeng MBE

Councillor Ewan Mackey

Ms Mary Martin

Mr James Tait

Mr Ian Myatt

Tony Howard

Mac Alonge

## **4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal**

- 4.1 This report provides information to Members on B:Music and will assist in the exchanges and discussion on the presentation within the private agenda.

## **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 The Chair of the Committee has been consulted on the attendance of B:Music.

## **6 Risk Management**

- 6.1 This report provides an outline of the company and background for discussion of company performance with the company representatives.

## **7 Compliance Issues:**

- 7.1 **How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?**

The Council provides services to community through a number of different vehicles. This report provides information on B:Music, a major provider of cultural services and events within the city.

The recommended decision supports the Birmingham City Council Plan 2018-2022, outcome 4: Birmingham is a great city to live in through priority 8, we will enhance our status as a city of culture, sports and events.

## **7.2 Legal Implications**

The Council's Section 151 Officer has a duty to ensure the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, requires the Council to have effective arrangements for the management of risk.

## **7.3 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report but Members should consider any questions or considerations arising from this report for discussion during the private agenda.

## **7.4 Procurement Implications**

There are no procurement implications directly arising from this report.

## **7.5 Human Resources Implications**

There are no human resources implications directly arising from this report.

## **7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty**

There are no equality duty or equality analysis issues relating to the proposals set out in this report.

## **8 Background Documents**

CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting